

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 AID-20 PC-04

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01

NIC-01 DRC-01 /161 W

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R 151320Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2533

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USUN NEW YORK 157

AMEMBASSY MBABANE BY POUCH

USCINCEUR

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 LOURENCO MARQUES 0347

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, PINS, PGOV, MZ

SUBJECT: VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE OF JUNTA VICE PRESIDENT

GENERAL COSTA GOMES

1. SUMMARY: GEN COSTA GOMES ARRIVED LOURENCO MARQUES
MAY 10, GAVE PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 11. VISITED NAMPULA AND
BEIRA, GIVING PRESS CONFERENCES IN BOTH PLACES, AND DEPARTED
FROM MOZAMBIQUE ON MAY 13. DURING HIS STAY, HE CLARIFIED
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JUNTA INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO GRANTING OVERSEAS TERRI-

TORIES RIGHT TO SELF DETERMINATION, NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRELIMO, FUTURE CONDUCT OF WAR, IF NECESSARY, AND NUMEROUS OTHER MATTERS OF LOCAL CONCERN. HE ALSO MET WITH LEADERS OF VARIOUS POLITICAL AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, AND TOOK A HAND IN TRYING PACIFY DEMONSTRATORS IN BEIRA DISTURBANCES. WHILE CHANGES IN MOZAMBIQUE'S GOVERNING AND MILITARY PERSONNEL EXPECTED AS RESULT OF TRIP, THEY HAVE NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED. END SUMMARY.

2. ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF AND JUNTA VICE PRESIDENT GENERAL COSTA GOMES ARRIVED IN BEIRA AROUND NOONTIME ON MAY 10. HE WAS MET AT AIRPORT BY ACTING GOVERNOR GENERAL TEIXEIRA FERREIRA, JUNTA REPRESENTATIVE SILVA SEBASTIAO, COMMANDING GENERAL BASTO MACHADO, AND AMERICAN, BRAZILIAN, BRITISH AND SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY ATTACHES FROM LISBON, WHO WERE ENDING THEIR MOZAMBIQUE VISIT AND WHO WERE PROMINENTLY MENTIONED IN PRESS ACCOUNTS.

3. PROCEEDING BY PLANE TO LOURENCO MARQUES, COSTA GOMES ON ARRIVAL CONVEYED JUNTA'S "HIGH APPRECIATION" TO MOZAMBIQUE PEOPLE AND SAID JUNTA "WANTED WORLD TO KNOW THAT EUROPEAN PORTUGAL CONTINUES FIRM AND DETERMINED IN ITS SUPPORT FOR ITS OVERSEAS BROTHERS", WHOM THEY WISH TO BE PROSPEROUS, HAPPY AND PEACEFUL. HE SAID JUNTA, FAITHFUL TO ITS MANDATE HAS NOT ONLY GUARANTEED THE BEGINNING, BUT WILL ALSO PAY ATTENTION TO FUTURE DEVELOPMENT, OF "FINEST REVOLUTIONARY WORK IN CONTEMPORARY HISTORY". HE SAID JUNTA HAS PROGRAM TO FULFILL - LIBERALIZING AND DEMOCRATIZING OF PORTUGUESE SOCIETY, AND THAT SINCE APRIL 25, DESTINY CALLS FOR ACTION RATHER THAN WORDS.

4. AT 1030 HOURS MAY 11, COSTA GOMES HELD LARGE PRESS CONFERENCE IN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY HALL, WHICH CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVES WERE INVITED TO ATTEND. IN HIS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, COSTA GOMES DESCRIBED GENESIS OF "REVOLUTION OF FLOWERS", MOTIVES AND ASPIRATIONS OF YOUNG OFFICERS WHO LED MOVEMENT OF ARMED FORCES, AND THEIR DETERMINATION TO END SUFFERINGS OF WAR. HE SAID PORTUGAL IN SUPPORT OF UNITED NATIONS CHARTER GUARANTEES PRINCIPLE OF SELFDETERMINATION AS UNDERSTOOD IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, UNDER WHICH PEOPLE

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OF MOZAMBIQUE WILL IN DUE COURSE DECIDE THEIR OWN DESTINY. "THEY CAN THEN CHOOSE BETWEEN ONE EXTREME OF COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE AND OTHER OF TOTAL INTEGRATION". PERSONALLY, COSTA GOMES THOUGHT PEOPLE OF MOZAMBIQUE WOULD FIND A BALANCE WITHIN THE POLITICAL FRAME OF A GREATER PORTUGAL. ADMITTING THAT THERE ARE ORGANIZATIONS CALLED "EMANCIPATED" WITH POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERS WHOSE IDEAS AND WEAPONS DOMINATE PORTIONS OF MOZAMBICAN POPULATION, HE SAID JUNTA

WAS COMPOSED OF PROFESSIONAL MILITARY LEADERS WHO RESPECT THEIR ADVERSARIES OF TODAY AND YESTERDAY. HE PROPOSED IMMEDIATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SUCH ORGANIZATIONS WITHOUT PRE-CONDITIONS AND WITHOUT SYMBOLIC SURRENDERS OF ARMAMENT. "WE WILL RECEIVE THEM WITH THE RESPECT THEIR COURAGE MERITS FROM US". THEY SHOULD TRANSFER THEIR HEAD-QUARTERS AND AGENCIES TO MOZAMBIQUE; THEY SHOULD TERMINATE THEIR ARMED STRUGGLE, AND "SHOULD CONTINUE THE INTERNAL STRUGGLE WITH SPIRITUAL FORCE OF THEIR IDEOLOGIES WITH THE MUTUAL COMPROMISE IN WHICH, AT THE MOMENT OF TRUTH, ALL OF US SUBORDINATE OURSELVES TO THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE FREELY EXPRESSED". EUROPEAN PORTUGAL WILL GIVE UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT TO PEOPLE OF MOZAMBIQUE, AND WILL MAKE EVERY SACRIFICE FOR A FREE AND SELFDETERMINED MOZAMBIQUE.

5. COSTA GOMES THEN PARTICIPATED IN AN HOUR LONG SESSION OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM CORRESPONDENTS, AFTER FIRST HEARING ELOQUENT PLEA FROM FOURTH GENERATION WHITE MOZAM-BICAN AGAINST IMMEDIATE OR TOO RAPID INDEPENDENCE FOR MOZAMBIQUE AS THIS WOULD LEAD TO SECOND CONGO OR VIETNAM BECAUSE OF THE MANY ETHNIC GROUPS INVOLVED. SUMMARIZED ANSWERS TO MORE INTERESTING QUESTIONS FOLLOW:

A) MOZAMBIKAN AND ANGOLAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES WERE REPORTEDLY CHOSEN IN ELECTIONS WHICH WERE NOT FRAUDULENT, AS IS PROVEN IN MOZAMBIQUE WHERE ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP IS PREDOMINANTLY BLACK. IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT ASSEMBLIES HAVE NOT BEEN ELECTED CORRECTLY, I WILL SEEK THEIR EXTINCTION ON MY RETURN TO LISBON.

B) SINCE THERE IS A COMMUNIST PARTY IN THE METROPOLE, I DON'T SEE WHY THERE SHOULDN'T ALSO BE ONE IN MOZAMBIQUE AS LONG AS IT RESPECTS THE PROGRAM OF THE ARMED FORCES.
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C) PROBLEM OF STOPPING WAR IS NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO IMMEDIATE INDEPENDENCE. I HAVE MY DOUBTS THAT THE PARTIES WHO ARE FIGHTING US REPRESENT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE OF MOZAM-BIQUE, ANGOLA AND GUINEA. HENCE, FIRST STEP IS FOR COMBATTANTS TO FIGHT IN THE FIELD OF IDEAS LIKE ANY OTHER POLITICAL PARTY.

D) I AM CONVINCED THAT FRELIMO ACTIONS OF PAST TWO OR THREE DAYS HAVE NO CONNECTION WITH OUR OFFER OF CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES (DESPITE MACHEL'S PUBLISHED REPLY THAT FRELIMO WOULD INTENSIFY THE STRUGGLE). I AM ALSO CONVINCED THAT THE LEADERS OF SUCH MOVEMENTS KNOW THAT WAR WILL NOT LEAD TO ANYTHING, AND THAT ITS CONTINUATION WILL BRING ABOUT MORE INNOCENT DEATHS AND MUTILATIONS.

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PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 SAM-01

NIC-01 DRC-01 /161 W

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R 151320Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2534

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

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E) FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS HAVE PREOCCUPIED JUNTA, WHICH IS ACCELERATING PROCESS OF EXTENDING CERTAIN LOANS TO MOZAMBIQUE. HOWEVER, THESE MATTERS BEYOND RESPONSIBILITY OF JUNTA

AND WILL BE ON AGENDA FOR NEW PROVISORY GOVERNMENT.

F) FRELIMO WILL BE ALLOWED OPERATE WITHIN MOZAMBIQUE WITH SAME FREEDOMS GRANTED TO ALL OTHER PARTIES ON CONDITION THAT IT CEASES HOSTILITIES, AND DOES NOT ACT VIOLENTLY.

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G) IF MOZAMBIQUE HAS NOT PROCEEDED AS RAPIDLY AS SOME MIGHT HAVE WISHES IN IMPLEMENTING JUNTA'S MEASURES, ONE MUST HAVE PATIENCE. IT IS NOT EASY, FOR EXAMPLE, TO RELEASE ALL PRISONERS WITHOUT HELP OF VOLUNTARY COMMISSION OF LAWYERS WHO CAN DETERMINE WHICH PRISONERS HAVE COMMITTED POLITICAL CRIMES RATHER THAN COMMON CRIMES. THE OPVDC IN ANGOLA AT LEAST, IS AN ALTRUISTIC AND USEFUL ORGANIZATION, WHICH IF IT WERE TO BE DISBANDED WOULD HAVE GRAVE REPERCUSSIONS ON SECURITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF POPULACE.

H) DURING THE FOUR YEARS I SPENT IN MOZAMBIQUE, I REPEATEDLY DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM OF LOW SALARIES. THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST URGENT PROBLEMS THE NEW GOVERNOR MUST FACE. SALARIES SHOULD BE DETERMINED ACCORDING TO A JUST POLICY WHICH DOES NOT DESTROY THE BALANCE OR HARMONY BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES.

I) IF FRELIMO DOES NOT ACCEPT JUNTA'S OFFER, WHICH IS MADE IN GREATEST SINCERITY AND MOST OPEN SPIRIT, ARMY WILL HAVE NO OTHER SOLUTION BUT TO CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE AND INTENSIFY IT IF POSSIBLE.

J) TASK OF PREPARING MILLIONS OF MOZAMBICANS FOR UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE IS NOT FOR JUNTA, BUT FOR PROVISORY GOVERNMENT TO UNDERTAKE.

K) FRELIMO WILL BE ALLOWED TO PUBLISH ITS PROGRAM OF ACTION AS LONG AS IT DOES NOT ADVOCATE VIOLENCE. NEW CONTACTS ARE FORESEEN TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH FRELIMO. FRIENDLY RELATIONS EXISTING WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES OF SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA, MALAWI AND SWAZILAND WILL CONTINUE AND BE EXTENDED TO TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA.

6. DURING REMAINDER OF HIS STAY IN LOURENCO MARQUES, COSTA GOMES HAD AUDIENCES WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF GUMO (SIMIAO AND ABREU), MUSLEM SOCIETY, FICO, DEMOCRATS OF MOZAMBIQUE, AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, COMMERCIAL ASSOCIATIONS OF LOURENCO MARQUES, BEIRA, GAZA, AND MOZAMBIQUE, AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF CABO DELGADO, ASSOCIATION OF SISAL PRODUCERS, UNIVERSITY RECTOR AND DIRECTOR OF FACULTIES, PRESIDENT OF LABOR INSTITUTE, ETC.

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TORS OF FACULTIES, PRESIDENT OF LABOR INSTITUTE, ETC.

7. ON MAY 12, COSTA GOMES VISITED NAMPULA, ACCOMPANIED BY CLUSTER OF REPORTERS. HERE, HE EXTENDED HIS RESPECTS TO HIS MILITARY COLLEAGUES, CLARIFYING THAT JUNTA WAS NOT CALLING FOR SURRENDER, BUT SIMPLY ASKING ADVERSARIES TO LAY DOWN ARMS TO CREATE CLIMATE OF PEACE IN WHICH MARTYRIZED PEOPLE OF MOZAMBIQUE COULD FREELY DISCUSS THEIR DESTINY AND DECIDE IN AUTHENTIC ELECTIONS ON THE POLITICAL SCHEME UNDER WHICH THEY DESIRE TO LIVE.

8. FOLLOWING AN EXTENSIVE MILITARY BRIEFING, COSTA GOMES GAVE FOLLOWING ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FROM CORRESPONDENTS. HE THOUGHT PORTUGAL WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT WHATEVER SOLUTION PEOPLES OF OVERSEAS TERRITORIES WANTED. HE SAID JUNTA HELD BROADEST CONCEPT OF AUTODETERMINATION BUT FORM IN WHICH IT SHOULD BE EXERCISED WAS UP TO PRIVISORY GOVERNMENT. IF FRELIMO DOES NOT ACCEPT JUNTA'S OFFER TO PARTICIPATE IN PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS SELF DETERMINATION, PORTUGUESE WILL CONTINUE TO DEFEND SACRED RIGHT OF THEIR BROTHER PEOPLE TO DECIDE THEIR OWN DESTINIES IN PEACE. IF PEOPLE AND ARMED FORCES HAD FOUGHT THIRTEEN YEARS FOR UTOPIIC OBJECTIVES OF PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT, HE COULD NOT CONCEIVE THEY WOULD NOT CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE FOR PRESENT SUPERIOR OBJECTIVES. HE CONFIRMED THAT STRELA MISSILE HAD HIT MILITARY PLACE SEVERAL DAYS AGO BUT SAID MILITARY STRATEGY AND TACTICS WOULD REMAIN SAME; WHAT HAD BEEN MODIFIED SIGNIFICANTLY WERE POLITICAL OBJECTIVES. HE DENIED THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD FIGHT ON MOZAMBIQUE TERRITORY, SAYING IT DID NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT FORCES TO DO SO. HE DENIED THAT JUNTA'S POSITION STEMS FROM WEAKNESS, BUT FROM A CURRENT OF THOUGHT IN WHICH THOSE WHO DIRECT PORTUGAL'S DESTINY THINK THAT WAR WILL NOT SOLVE OVERSEAS PROBLEMS. HE ASCRIBED PREVIOUS DAY'S DISTURBANCES IN BEIRA TO "DECOMPRESSION" OF BOTH WHITE AND BLACK POPULATION, AND HOPED FOR SPEEDY RETURN TO BALANCE AND GOOD SENSE, SO THAT ALL COULD EXPRESS THEMSELVES FREELY IN CONSULTATIONS WHICH WOULD SOON TAKE PLACE. HE THOUGHT BOTH IN MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA WHITE MINORITIES WOULD HAVE SUFFICIENT SENSE TO SEE THAT UNILATERAL DECLARATIONS OF INDEPENDENCE WOULD NOT BE REALIZED.

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OM ON MAY 13, COSTA GOMES RETURNED TO BEIRA FOR HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE COUNTRY. ONCE AGAIN, HE ANSWERED QUESTIONS FROM PRESS. HE SAID HE HAD ORDERED EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATIONS OF CHARGES OF MASSACRES IN INHAMINGA AREA AND OF ATROCITIES TOWARDS POLITICAL PRISIONERS. HE HAD CONTACTED FRELIMO SYMPATHIZERS IN LOURENCO MARQUES, ASKING THEM TO TRANSMIT JUNTA'S APPEAL FOR PEACE TO THEIR LEADERS, AND TO INDICATE FORM IN WHICH THEY WANTED TO NEGOTIATE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUCE. MOST OTHER REPLIES WERE REPITITIONS OR

ELABORATIONS OF THOSE PREVIOUSLY GIVEN. IN HIS FAREWELL STATEMENT, COSTA GOMES PAID TRIBUTE TO THE TENACITY OF THE PEOPLE OF BEIRA WHO HAD BUILT THE "SOLID MIRACLE OF A MODERN CITY" ON A "FLUID SWAMP", AND HOPED THIS WOULD INSPIRE PEOPLE OF MOZAMBIQUE TO CONSOLIDATE RAPIDLY A MODERN PEOPLE OUT OF ITS MANY ETHNIC GROUPS, LANGUAGES AND RELIGIONS. MOZAMBIQUE'S MISSION IS TO CREATE UNDER PORTUGUESE FLAG ALL CONDITIONS FOR LIBERALIZING AND PACIFYING ITS SOCIETY SO THAT ITS PEOPLE CAN CHOOSE A PATH OF AUTHENTIC SELF DETERMINATION. HE CONCLUDED WITH WARNING TO THOSE LIMITED NUMBERS OF PERSONS WHO ARE TRYING TO "CREATE EMOTIONAL CLIMATE LESS PROPITIOUS FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF ABSOLUTELY INDESPENSABLE MULTIRACIAL HARMONY" THAT THEY ARE COMMITTING TRAGIC CRIMES AGAINST PEACE AND MOVEMENT OF ARMED FORCES, WHICH THEY SHOULD REALIZE QUICKLY FOR THEIR OWN GOOD.

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